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Security Council

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Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)

Note verbale dated 18 April 2018 from the Permanent Mission of Guinea-Bissau to the United Nations addressed to the Chair of the Committee

The Permanent Mission of Guinea-Bissau to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) and has the honour to forward herewith the report of Guinea-Bissau on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) (see annex).

18-12669 (E) 210918

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Annex to the note verbale dated 18 April 2018 from the Permanent Mission of Guinea-Bissau to the United Nations addressed to the Chair of the Committee

Report of Guinea-Bissau on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004)

The Government of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau hereby presents its first report on the measures it has taken and intends to take to implement Security Council resolution 1540 (2004).

The Government is available to provide any additional clarification.

Guinea-Bissau, in fulfilment of its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations, recognizes the obligations imposed under Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) to adopt legislation to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery and to establish appropriate domestic controls over related materials in order to prevent their illicit trafficking by non-State actors.

The Republic of Guinea-Bissau considers acts of international terrorism and the use of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons to be a scourge to mankind and is committed to taking all possible steps to improve channels of cooperation at the bilateral, regional and multilateral levels to address such threats.

Whereas, to date, the Republic of Guinea-Bissau has enjoyed an economic and social environment largely free of terrorist threats, evidence has emerged in recent years of increasing terrorist activity in West Africa, as well as the possible vulnerability of Guinea-Bissau to these growing threats in the region.

The Republic of Guinea-Bissau does not possess any nuclear, chemical or biological weapons, nor any means for their delivery, and is committed to disarmament and the non-proliferation of such weapons nationally, regionally and globally.

Paragraphs 1 and 2

The Republic of Guinea-Bissau does not provide any support to non-State actors attempting to develop, acquire, manufacture, possess, transport, transfer or use nuclear, chemical or biological weapons or their means of delivery.

In support of those non-proliferation and related security objectives, the Republic of Guinea-Bissau is a State party to the following multilateral arms control and non-proliferation treaties and conventions:

- Biological Weapons Convention of 1972
- Chemical Weapons Convention of 1993
- Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons of 1968

The Republic of Guinea-Bissau is also a signatory to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and to the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Pelindaba Treaty).

In addition, with regard to counter-terrorism, the Government of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau has never authorized nor does it intend to authorize acts of terrorism or the financing of terrorist activities in its territory and supports all international counter-terrorism efforts as a State party to 10 of the 19 international conventions and protocols on counter-terrorism, in particular those relevant to resolution 1540 (2004), including the following:

- International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings of 1997
- International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism of 1999
- Organization of African Unity Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism
- International Health Regulations
- International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism
- Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material

Legislation contributing to the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) includes the Criminal Code of 13 October 1993, in particular articles 121, 206 and 211, which also provide for penalties.

A more detailed description can be found in the matrix attached hereto (see enclosure).

Paragraph 7

Guinea-Bissau intends to seek assistance in this matter from all relevant organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations.

The Government of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau attaches great importance to strengthening national legislation relating to the non-proliferation of and illicit trafficking in nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, their means of delivery and related materials.

The Government of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau will continue to engage and require the technical and financial assistance of relevant international, regional and governmental organizations for the effective implementation of the resolution, including in the following areas:

(a) Development and implementation of a national voluntary action plan;

(b) Creation and training of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons detection teams, including obtaining the necessary equipment for each team;

(c) Conducting workshops and seminars on resolution 1540 (2004).

In addition, and where appropriate, the Government of Guinea-Bissau will seek advice from certain non-governmental organizations with relevant expertise, such as Parliamentarians for Global Action.

In the light of the ever-increasing threat of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction to non-State actors, and mindful of the presence of a number of terrorist organizations in West Africa itself, the Government of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau understands the need for a comprehensive review of current legislation with a view to reaching a determination on steps that need to be taken to give full effect to Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) in national law.

Enclosure

Implementation matrix

The information in the matrices originates primarily from national reports and is complemented by official government information, including that made available to intergovernmental organizations. The matrices are prepared under the direction of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004).

The Committee intends to use the matrices as a reference tool for facilitating technical assistance and to enable the Committee to continue to enhance its dialogue with States on their implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004).

The matrices are not a tool for measuring compliance of States with their non-proliferation obligations but for facilitating the implementation of resolutions 1540 (2004), 1673 (2006), 1810 (2008) and 1977 (2011). They do not reflect or prejudice any ongoing discussions outside the Committee, in the Security Council or in any of its organs of a State's compliance with its non-proliferation or any other obligations. Information on voluntary commitments is for reporting purposes only and does not constitute in any way a legal obligation arising from resolution 1540 (2004) or its successive resolutions.

Paragraph 1 and related matters from paragraphs 5, 6, 8 (a), (b) and (c) and 10

	Legally binding instruments, organizations, codes of conduct, arrangements, statements and other issues	*Yes*	*If yes, relevant information (i.e. signing, accession, ratification, etc.)*	*Remarks (information refers to the page of the English version of the national report or an official website)*
1	Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons	X	Deposited 20 August 1976	
2	Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone/Protocol(s)	?	Pelindaba Treaty, signed 11 April 1996	
3	International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism	X	Deposited 6 August 2008	
4	Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material	X	In force as of 7 November 2008	
5	2005 Amendment to the Convention			
6	Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (not in force)	X	Deposited 24 September 2013	
7	Chemical Weapons Convention	X	Deposited 19 May 2008	
8	Biological Weapons Convention	X	Deposited 20 August 1976	
9	Geneva Protocol of 1925	X	Deposited 20 May 1989	
10	Other conventions/treaties	X	State party to 12 of 19 international legal instruments to fight terrorism, including the following that are relevant to resolution 1540 (2004): International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings of 1997 International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism of 1999 Organization of African Unity (OAU) Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism, deposited 14 October 2008	

	Legally binding instruments, organizations, codes of conduct, arrangements, statements and other issues	*Yes*	*If yes, relevant information (i.e. signing, accession, ratification, etc.)*	*Remarks (information refers to the page of the English version of the national report or an official website)*
			Protocol to the OAU Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism, deposited 27 July 2015	
			International Health Regulations (2005)	
11	International Atomic Energy Agency			
12	The Hague Code of Conduct	X	Subscriber	
13	Other arrangements			
14	General statement on non-possession of weapons of mass destruction			
15	General statement on commitment to disarmament and non-proliferation			
16	General statement on non-provision of weapons of mass destruction and related materials to non-State actors			
17	Other[a]	X	State member of:	
			African Union	
			Community of Sahelo-Saharan States	
			Economic Community of West African States	
			Intergovernmental Action Group against Money Laundering in West Africa	
			International Maritime Organization	
			International Monetary Fund (IMF)	
			International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)	
			World Organization for Animal Health	

Legally binding instruments, organizations, codes of conduct, arrangements, statements and other issues	*Yes*	*If yes, relevant information (i.e. signing, accession, ratification, etc.)*	*Remarks (information refers to the page of the English version of the national report or an official website)*
		West African Economic and Monetary Union	
		World Bank Group	
		World Customs Organization	
		World Health Organization	
		State party to the following conventions:	
		Cotonou Agreement	
		Partial Test Ban Treaty, deposited 20 August 1976	

[a] Including, as appropriate, information with regard to membership in relevant international, regional or subregional organizations.

Paragraph 2: nuclear weapons, chemical weapons and biological weapons

Does national legislation exist which prohibits persons or entities to engage in one of the following activities? Can violators be penalized?	*National legal framework*				*Enforcement: civil/criminal penalties and others*				
	Yes				*Yes*				
	NW	*CW*	*BW*	*If yes, source document of national implementation law*	*NW*	*CW*	*BW*	*If yes, source document*	*Remarks*
1 Manufacture/ produce		X		**CW** Criminal Code of 13 October 1993, article 206 (anyone who illegally manufactures, imports, transports, sells or gives automatic weapons, chemical weapons or their ammunition, or any explosive, commits a crime punishable with three years or a fine, with more severe penalties for possession or use of arms of war)		X		**CW** Criminal Code of 13 October 1993, article 206 (anyone who illegally manufactures, imports, transports, sells or gives automatic weapons, chemical weapons or their ammunition, or any explosive, commits a crime punishable with three years or a fine, with more severe penalties for possession or use of arms of war)	
2 Acquire									
3 Possess									
4 Stockpile/ store									
5 Develop									
6 Transport		X		**CW** Criminal Code of 13 October 1993, article 206 (anyone who illegally manufactures, imports, transports, sells or gives automatic weapons, chemical weapons or their ammunition, or any explosive, commits a crime punishable with three years or a fine, with more severe penalties for possession or use of arms of war)		X		**CW** Criminal Code of 13 October 1993, article 206 (anyone who illegally manufactures, imports, transports, sells or gives automatic weapons, chemical weapons or their ammunition, or any explosive, commits a crime punishable with three years or a fine, with more severe penalties for possession or use of arms of war)	
7 Transfer		X		**CW** Criminal Code of 13 October		X		**NW/CW** Criminal Code of 13 October 1993,	

Does national legislation exist which prohibits persons or entities to engage in one of the following activities? Can violators be penalized?		*National legal framework*				*Enforcement: civil/criminal penalties and others*				
		Yes				*Yes*				
		NW	*CW*	*BW*	*If yes, source document of national implementation law*	*NW*	*CW*	*BW*	*If yes, source document*	*Remarks*
					1993, article 206 (anyone who illegally manufactures, imports, transports, sells or gives automatic weapons, chemical weapons or their ammunition, or any explosive, commits a crime punishable with three years or a fine, with more severe penalties for possession or use of arms of war)				article 206 (anyone who illegally manufactures, imports, transports, sells or gives automatic weapons, chemical weapons or their ammunition, or any explosive, commits a crime punishable with three years or a fine, with more severe penalties for possession or use of arms of war)	
8	Use		?	?	**CW/BW** Criminal Code of 13 October 1993, articles 121 (use of poisoning substances) and 209 (danger to public health)		?	?	**CW/BW** Criminal Code of 13 October 1993, articles 121 (use of poisoning substances) and 209 (danger to public health)	
9	Participate as an accomplice in above-mentioned activities		X	X	**CW/BW** Criminal Code of 13 October 1993, article 16		X	?	**CW** Criminal Code of 13 October 1993, articles 121 (use of poisoning substances), 209 (danger to public health) and 206 (anyone who illegally manufactures, imports, transports, sells or gives automatic weapons, chemical weapons or their ammunition, or any explosive, commits a crime punishable with three years or a fine, with more severe penalties for possession or use of arms of war) **BW** Criminal Code of 13 October 1993, articles 121 (use of poisoning substances) and 209 (danger to public health)	
10	Assist in above-		X	X	**CW/BW** Criminal Code of 13 October 1993, article 17		X	?	**CW** Criminal Code of 13 October 1993, articles 121 (use of poisoning substances),	

Does national legislation exist which prohibits persons or entities to engage in one of the following activities? Can violators be penalized?	*National legal framework*				*Enforcement: civil/criminal penalties and others*				
	Yes				*Yes*				
	NW	*CW*	*BW*	*If yes, source document of national implementation law*	*NW*	*CW*	*BW*	*If yes, source document*	*Remarks*
mentioned activities								209 (danger to public health) and 206 (anyone who illegally manufactures, imports, transports, sells or gives automatic weapons, chemical weapons or their ammunition, or any explosive, commits a crime punishable with three years or a fine, with more severe penalties for possession or use of arms of war) **BW** Criminal Code of 13 October 1993, articles 121 (use of poisoning substances) and 209 (danger to public health)	
11 Finance above-mentioned activities									
12 Above-mentioned activities related to means of delivery[a]									
13 Involvement of non-State actors in above-mentioned activities									
14 Other									

Abbreviations: BW, biological weapons; CW, chemical weapons; NW, nuclear weapons.

[a] Means of delivery: missiles, rockets and other unmanned systems capable of delivering nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons that are specially designed for such use.

Paragraph 3 (a) and (b): account for/secure/physically protect nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, including related materials[a]

Are any of the following measures, procedures or legislation in place to account for, secure or otherwise protect nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and related materials? Can violators be penalized?	*National legal framework*				*Enforcement: civil/criminal penalties and others*				
	Yes				*Yes*				
	NW	*CW*	*BW*[b]	*If yes, source document*	*NW*	*CW*	*BW*	*If yes, source document*	*Remarks*
1 Measures to account for production									
2 Measures to account for use									
3 Measures to account for storage									
4 Measures to account for transport	?	?	?	**NW/CW/BW** Uniform Act on the Contract for the Carriage of Goods by Road					
5 Other measures for accounting									
6 Measures to secure production									
7 Measures to secure use									
8 Measures to secure storage									
9 Measures to secure transport	?	?	?	**NW/CW/BW** Uniform Act on the Contract for the Carriage of Goods by Road	?	?	?	**NW/CW/BW** Criminal Code of 13 October 1993, article 211	

Are any of the following measures, procedures or legislation in place to account for, secure or otherwise protect nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and related materials? Can violators be penalized?	*National legal framework*				*Enforcement: civil, criminal penalties and others*				
	Yes				*Yes*				
	NW	*CW*	*BW*[a]	*If yes, source document*	*NW*	*CW*	*BW*	*If yes, source document*	*Remarks*
10 Other measures for securing									
11 Regulations for physical protection of facilities/ materials/ transport									
12 Licensing/ registration of installations/ facilities/ persons/ entities/use/ handling of materials									
13 Reliability check of personnel									
14 Measures to account for/ secure/ physically protect means of delivery									

Abbreviations: BW, biological weapons; CW, chemical weapons; NW, nuclear weapons.

[a] Related materials: materials, equipment and technology covered by relevant multilateral treaties and arrangements, or included on national control lists, which could be used for the design, development, production or use of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery.

[b] Information required in this section may also be available in the State's confidence-building measures report, if submitted to the Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit (see www.unog.ch/80256EE600585943/(httpPages)/4FA4DA37A55C7966C12575780055D9E8?OpenDocument).

Paragraph 3 (a) and (b): account for/secure/physically protect nuclear weapons, including related materials

Are any of the following measures, procedures or legislation in place to account for, secure or otherwise protect nuclear weapons and related materials? Can violators be penalized?	*National legal framework*		*Enforcement: civil/criminal penalties and others*		
	Yes	*If yes, source document*	*Yes*	*If yes, source document*	*Remarks*
1 National regulatory authority					
2 IAEA safeguards agreements					
3 IAEA Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources					
4 Supplementary Guidance on the Import and Export of Radioactive Sources					
5 IAEA Incident and Trafficking Database					
6 Other agreements related to IAEA					
7 Additional national legislation/regulations related to nuclear materials, including the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material					
8 Other					

Paragraph 3 (a) and (b): account for/secure/physically protect chemical weapons, including related materials

Are any of the following measures, procedures or legislation in place to account for, secure or otherwise protect chemical weapons and related materials? Can violators be penalized?		*National legal framework*		*Enforcement: civil/criminal penalties and others*		
		Yes	*If yes, source document*	*Yes*	*If yes, source document*	*Remarks*
1	National CWC authority	X	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Communities	X	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Communities	
2	Reporting Schedule I, II and III chemicals to OPCW					
3	Account for, secure or physically protect "old chemical weapons"					
4	Other legislation/ regulations controlling chemical materials					
5	Other					

Paragraph 3 (a) and (b): account for/secure/physically protect biological weapons, including related materials

Are any of the following measures, procedures or legislation in place to account for, secure or otherwise protect biological weapons and related materials? Can violators be penalized?	*National legal framework*		*Enforcement: civil/criminal penalties and others*		
	Yes	*If yes, source document*	*Yes*	*If yes, source document*	*Remarks*
1 Regulations for genetic engineering work					
2 Other legislation/ regulations related to safety and security of biological materials					
3 Other					

Paragraph 3 (c) and (d) and related matters from paragraphs 6 and 10: controls of nuclear weapons, chemical weapons and biological weapons, including related materials

Which of the following legislation, procedures, measures, agencies exist to control border crossings, export/import and other transfers of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and related materials? Can violators be penalized?	*National legal framework*				*Enforcement: civil/criminal penalties and measures of implementation, etc.*				
	Yes				*Yes*				
	NW	*CW*	*BW*	*If yes, source document*	*NW*	*CW*	*BW*	*If yes, source document*	*Remarks*
1 Border control	X	X	X	**NW/CW/BW**: Regulation No. 09/2001/CM/UEMOA on common West African Economic and Monetary Union code of customs **BW**: Decree Law No. 4/99 of 18 August 1999 on the protection of plants, articles 8 and 9	X	X	X	**NW/CW/BW**: Customs Service **BW**: Decree Law No. 4/99 of 18 August 1999 on the protection of plants, articles 8 and 9 Ministry of Agriculture	
2 Technical support of border control measures					?	?	?	**NW/CW/BW**: Automated System for Customs Data	
3 Control of brokering, trading in, negotiating and otherwise assisting in the sale of goods and technology									
4 Enforcement agencies/ authorities					X	X	X	**NW/CW/BW**: Customs Service Ministry of Agriculture	

Which of the following legislation, procedures, measures, agencies exist to control border crossings, export/import and other transfers of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and related materials? Can violators be penalized?	*National legal framework*				*Enforcement: civil/criminal penalties and measures of implementation, etc.*				
	Yes				*Yes*				
	NW	*CW*	*BW*	*If yes, source document*	*NW*	*CW*	*BW*	*If yes, source document*	*Remarks*
								National police	
5 Export control legislation in place									
6 Licensing provisions									
7 Individual licensing									
8 General licensing									
9 Exceptions from licensing									
10 Licensing of deemed export/ visa									
11 National licensing authority									
12 Inter-agency review for licences									
13 Control lists									
14 Updating of lists									

Which of the following legislation, procedures, measures, agencies exist to control border crossings, export/import and other transfers of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and related materials? Can violators be penalized?	*National legal framework*				*Enforcement: civil/criminal penalties and measures of implementation, etc.*				
	Yes				*Yes*				
	NW	*CW*	*BW*	*If yes, source document*	*NW*	*CW*	*BW*	*If yes, source document*	*Remarks*
15 Inclusion of technologies									
16 Inclusion of means of delivery									
17 End user controls									
18 Catch-all clause									
19 Intangible transfers									
20 Transit control									
21 Trans-shipment control									
22 Re-export control									
23 Control of providing funds									
24 Control of providing transport services									

Which of the following legislation, procedures, measures, agencies exist to control border crossings, export/import and other transfers of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and related materials? Can violators be penalized?	*National legal framework*				*Enforcement: civil/criminal penalties and measures of implementation, etc.*				
	Yes				*Yes*				
	NW	*CW*	*BW*	*If yes, source document*	*NW*	*CW*	*BW*	*If yes, source document*	*Remarks*
25 Control of importation		X	?	**CW**: Criminal Code of 13 October 1993, article 206 (anyone who illegally manufactures, imports, transports, sells or gives automatic weapons, chemical weapons or their ammunition, or any explosive, commits a crime punishable with three years or a fine, with more severe penalties for possession or use of arms of war) **BW**: Decree Law No. 4/99 of 18 August 1999 on Plants Protection, article 8		X	?	**CW**: Criminal Code of 13 October 1993, article 206 (anyone who illegally manufactures, imports, transports, sells or gives automatic weapons, chemical weapons or their ammunition, or any explosive, commits a crime punishable with three years or a fine, with more severe penalties for possession or use of arms of war) **BW**: Decree Law No. 4/99 of 18 August 1999 on Plants Protection, articles 8 and 9 Ministry of Agriculture	
26 Extraterritorial applicability									
27 Other				**NW/CW/BW**: 1. Cooperation among customs authorities of Portuguese-speaking countries 2. Member of the Economic Community of West African States					

Abbreviations: BW, biological weapons; CW, chemical weapons; NW, nuclear weapons.

Paragraphs 6, 7 and 8 (d): control lists, assistance, information

	Can information be provided on the following issues?	*Yes*		*Remarks*
1	Control lists — items (goods/equipment/materials/ technologies)			
2	Control lists — other			
3	Assistance offered	No		
4	Assistance requested		The Republic of Guinea-Bissau requires technical and financial assistance for the effective implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), including in the following areas: (a) Development and implementation of the national voluntary action plan; (b) Creation and training of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons detection teams, including obtaining the necessary equipment for each team; (c) Conducting workshops and seminars on resolution 1540 (2004). In addition, and where appropriate, the Government of Guinea-Bissau will seek advice from certain non-governmental organizations with relevant expertise, such as Parliamentarians for Global Action.	Paragraph 7
5	Point of contact for assistance		Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Communities	
6	Assistance in place (bilateral/multilateral)	Yes		
7	Work with and inform industry			
8	Work with and inform the public	Yes		
9	Point of contact		Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Communities	
10	Other[a]			

[a] Information may include references to voluntary implementation national action plan and visits to States, at their invitation, by the 1540 Committee.

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Security Council

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Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)

Note verbale dated 7 September 2018 from the Permanent Mission of Australia to the United Nations addressed to the Chair of the Committee

The Permanent Mission of Australia to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) and has the honour to transmit herewith up-to-date information regarding Australia's implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) (see annex) in response to the note verbale dated 14 August 2018 from the Chair of the Committee.

18-15467 (E) 240918

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Annex to the note verbale dated 7 September 2018 from the Permanent Mission of Australia to the United Nations addressed to the Chair of the Committee

Report of Australia on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004)

Australia is a strong supporter of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), which remains a centrepiece of the international non-proliferation regime. In its *2017 Foreign Policy White Paper*, Australia underlines its commitment to countering the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and strengthening the norms against the use of biological, chemical and nuclear weapons.

Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) — and the important work of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) — has helped to mobilize resources and expertise to assist States around the globe in strengthening national practices and implementation measures.

Australia continues to implement resolution 1540 (2004) through:

(a) Legislative action — for example, the Australian Government has passed 12 tranches of terrorism-related legislation since 2014, when the country's national terrorism threat level was raised to "probable";

(b) Strong implementation and enforcement of national controls on exports of materials and technologies related to weapons of mass destruction;

(c) A national security hotline, where members of the Australian community are encouraged to report suspicious behaviour;

(d) Support for international treaties, including the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, the prohibitions and provisions of which are enacted into Australian law;

(e) Active membership in major international export control regimes, including as the permanent Chair and secretariat of the Australia Group;

(f) Active membership in the Proliferation Security Initiative;

(g) Regularly conducting and contributing to international events that support the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004);

(h) Technical assistance and cooperation with other States, particularly with countries in the region.

The Australia-New Zealand Counter-Terrorism Committee maintains the national counter-terrorism plan and comprises representatives from the Australian and New Zealand Governments, as well as from Australian state and territory governments. The Committee provides expert strategic and policy advice to Heads of Government and other relevant ministers and coordinates an effective nation-wide counter-terrorism effort, including the capability and arrangements to respond to a chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear incident.

Its role as the permanent Chair of the Australia Group chemical and biological weapons export control regime is one of the many ways in which Australia meets its obligations under resolution 1540 (2004). Through the harmonization of export

controls, the Group seeks to ensure that exports do not contribute to the development of chemical and biological weapons.

Australia also supports resolution 1540 (2004) through its active participation in the Proliferation Security Initiative, a practical measure that builds both regional and domestic capability to disrupt and prevent the spread of weapons of mass destruction, their delivery systems and related materials. Australia participates in annual exercises, meetings and events of the Initiative. It has also provided military assets for enforcement of the resolution.

In September 2017, Australia hosted the annual Asia-Pacific exercise rotation event of the Proliferation Security Initiative, entitled the "Exercise Pacific Protector 17", with approximately 450 delegates from 21 countries. Demonstrating their commitment to working together to combat the threat posed by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in the Asia-Pacific region, partners of this rotation (Australia, Japan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Singapore and United States of America) have agreed to a formalized annual exercise rotation, hosted in the region. The event hosted by Australia included sessions focused on scholarly discussions, a tabletop exercise, a live exercise, a port exercise and demonstration and a knowledge exchange programme.

The Government's national export control policies reflect its commitment to ensuring that the export of defence materials and dual-use goods is consistent with its international obligations and commitments, including resolution 1540 (2004). More information on such export controls can be found at www.defence.gov.au/ExportControls/Policy.asp.

Australia has also addressed the possibility of intangible transfer of proliferation-sensitive technology to non-State actors. The Defence Trade Controls Act 2012, which was amended by the Defence Trade Controls Amendment Act 2015, regulates the intangible supply of technology relating to defence materials and strategic goods, such as supply though electronic means, and regulates the brokering of defence materials, strategic goods and related technology.

Australia has also implemented national measures to secure stocks of weapons and/or their precursors.

- The state and territory governments of Australia have well-established legal and regulatory frameworks to prevent materials of security concern from falling into the wrong hands.
- Those frameworks are further enhanced through the country's National Code of Practice for Chemicals of Security Concern, a programme established in 2008 by the Council of Australian Governments in partnership with industry actors to reduce the risk of chemicals being used for terrorist purposes. The objective of the Code is to promote effective chemical security management practices throughout the chemical supply chain by encouraging companies and individuals who manage or handle chemicals of security concern to consider the risk of terrorism in their security planning processes. The Code, available at www.nationalsecurity.gov.au, provides guidance and information on a range of practical security measures that businesses and individuals can adopt.
- The Australian Government and industry actors have worked together to develop guidance for businesses to help them to better understand the risks of chemical terrorism.

Australia also regulates security sensitive biological agents.

- The regulatory scheme for security sensitive biological agents monitors and regulates entities and facilities that handle biological agents of security concern.

The scheme sets out the requirements for handling (including storage), risk and incident management, transport, information management, personnel security and inactivation and decontamination of these agents.

- More information on the scheme can be found at www.health.gov.au\ssba.

International cooperation in the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004)

Australia was a founding member of the Group of Friends of resolution 1540 (2004), established in 2016, and continues to attend meetings of the Group. It provided input to the comprehensive review of the status of implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) in 2016 and participated actively in open debates. Australian representatives have also given presentations at training courses for points of contact for resolution 1540 (2004).

Australia has continued to provide technical support to the Expert Group of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Global Initiative to Counter Nuclear Terrorism. Two Australian technical experts were sent to participate in the meetings of experts on the Biological Weapons Convention held in August 2018. Australia sponsors the attendance of participants eligible for overseas development assistance at a range of non-proliferation and counterproliferation meetings, workshops and events.

Australia was a strong supporter of the statement on non-proliferation adopted by Heads of State and Government at the 2016 East Asia Summit, which reaffirmed the commitment of the countries participating in the Summit to fully implement resolution 1540 (2004) in order to prevent non-State actors from developing, acquiring, manufacturing, possessing, transporting, transferring or using weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery.

Australia co-hosted with Thailand an East Asia Summit seminar on non-proliferation in the Indo-Pacific region in Melbourne in October 2017. The seminar included sessions on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, resolution 1540 (2004) and the Proliferation Security Initiative.

Australia is a co-sponsor of the 2016 Nuclear Security Summit joint statement on promoting the full and universal implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), available at www.nss2016.org/document-center-docs/2016/4/1/joint-statement-on-1540-committee, and the action plan in support of the United Nations, which gives support to specific actions with regard to resolution 1540 (2004) (available at www.nss2016.org/s/Action-Plan-UN_FINAL.pdf).

The transnational nature of money laundering, the financing of weapons of mass destruction and the financing of terrorism require a coordinated global response. The Australian Government has invested $A 5.5 million from the proceeds of crime to establish an international financial intelligence and regulatory programme to enhance global financial intelligence collection. To strengthen its defences against the threats of foreign money laundering and terrorism financing, Australia is working to increase the operational capability of its regional partners.

As Chair of the Australia Group, Australia has submitted to the Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit an offer of assistance, on behalf of the membership of the Group, enabling States parties to the Convention to request assistance from the members of the Group on implementing export controls for the transfer of chemical and biological substances.

In February 2017, the Australia Group hosted a dialogue and outreach event for Latin American countries. In March 2018, the Group held a dialogue and outreach

event for African countries. These dialogues reaffirmed the commitment of the Group to non-proliferation and to the securing of sensitive materials against any attempts to use them to build biological and chemical weapons. The dialogues highlighted the importance of being able to respond to the dynamic challenges that the world faces. Cooperation at the global, regional and subregional levels is needed for effective control of dual-use goods. Dialogues present an important opportunity for the Group to extend its coordinated export control regime and build support for global counterproliferation efforts.

In addition to the above-mentioned dialogues, in 2016 and 2017 the Australia Group conducted various dialogue and capacity-building activities with Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Myanmar, Serbia, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Hong Kong, China, and Taiwan Province of China. As Chair and an active member of the Group, Australia continues to collaborate with its international partners on export controls.

Australia is a strong supporter of the operational capabilities of the Secretary-General's Mechanism for Investigation of Alleged Use of Chemical and Biological Weapons through the nomination of experts and laboratories to the roster of the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat. To strengthen the response capacity in the Asia-Pacific region, Australia hosted the first regional skills training course on the Mechanism, held in October 2016 in Canberra, in collaboration with the Office for Disarmament Affairs, the Australian Department of Defence and Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Australian Federal Police. Sixteen experts from Australia, China, New Zealand, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, South Africa and Thailand participated. The focus of the course was on investigating the alleged use of a biological weapon. Australian representatives have also participated in other training courses on the Mechanism. Australia considers that the Mechanism has a deterrent effect that contributes to the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

Australia continues to participate in international and national counter-terrorism and counterproliferation capability-building exercises and training programmes on chemical, biological and radiological security. This includes the delivery of a quality assurance programme to enhance laboratory capacity and capability to test for biological agents of security concern within Australia and in other specified overseas laboratories.

Australia supported a range of activities in 2017 and 2018 that reinforced its commitment to implementing resolution 1540 (2004). The following is a sample of relevant activities.

- Australia gave a presentation on resolution 1540 (2004) and the Proliferation Security Initiative at the Asian senior-level talks on non-proliferation hosted by Japan in 2017 and 2018.
- It gave a presentation at the Asian Export Control Seminar hosted by Japan in 2017 and 2018.
- In addition to hosting its fourth Proliferation Security Initiative exercise, in 2017, Australia has participated in every annual Asia-Pacific exercise.
- Australia contributed to two stakeholder forums on enacting national legislation to implement the Convention on Chemical Weapons.
- It shared its experiences with chemical safety and security and its chemical countermeasures programme.
- Australia co-funded the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific workshop on countering bioterrorism,

entitled "Beyond the 2016 comprehensive review: tackling the challenges to the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) for ASEAN member States".

- Australia also participated in a workshop on promoting the effective implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) in the context of evolving proliferation risks and challenges, held in Ukraine.
- In July 2017 in Thailand, Australia participated in an inaugural consortium on trade control on items related to weapons of mass destruction and in a conference on chemical security.
- Australia participated in the World Organization for Animal Health ad hoc group developing guidelines for the investigation of suspicious biological events, as well as the organization's Global Conference on Biological Threat Reduction.
- Australia co-funded and participated in a workshop on biosafety and security, including on tangible and intangible technology transfers, co-hosted by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific and the Government of Thailand and held in Bangkok in 2017.
- Australia participated in workshops on monitoring during a nuclear or radiological emergency and training on building capacities for nuclear security.
- Australia contributed to international efforts to address proliferation financing, including through the Financial Action Task Force.
- The head of the Australia Group secretariat participated in a conference on export controls in Pakistan in May 2018.
- Australia chaired the plenary meeting of the Australia Group in June 2017 and June 2018.